

January 17, 1950.

Dr. Robert Tulasne,  
Institut du Bacteriologie,  
Faculte de Medecine,  
3 Rue Koeberle,  
Strasbourg, France.

Dear Dr. Tulasne:

I have noticed your recent article in Nature on the "Existence of L-forms in common bacteria and their possible importance", and read it with great interest. I would greatly appreciate a reprint, and indeed wonder whether you would not do me the kindness of sending me your publications, generally, in this field.

May I also take this opportunity to make an additional request. The late (and deeply lamented) Dr. Boivin, on the occasion of his visit to the U. S. in 1947, left with Prof. Tatum (now at Stanford Univ.) and myself a pair of *E. coli* cultures "C1" and "C2", for the purpose of confirming and extending the observations of type-transformation in this material. Since the cultures were both stably sucrose-negative, and both lacked galacturonide-reacting material, it appears likely that our negative results were possibly due to some confusion of the cultures, and that they were not in fact the same strains as had been reported to transform. Unaware of Dr. Boivin's unfortunate illness, both Tatum and I attempted to communicate with him, without response. I would appreciate very much any information that you can give me concerning the present status of these transformable cultures. In fact, if you could transmit verified stocks, including the C1-S, C2-S, and especially C2-R susceptible to transformation, I would be extremely grateful. Both Tatum and I have put in a considerable amount of effort on the cultures earlier received, and the negative results were extremely discouraging. Your help in this regard would therefore be most welcome.

Yours very sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics.